

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 MCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00
SIG-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 H-01 EB-07
SSM-03 COME-00 ACDA-07 INRE-00 PM-04 SY-05 DHA-02
IO-13 L-03 TRSE-00 /105 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:PDW

APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

NEA/AFN:WWEISLOGEL

NEA/ARP:FGERLACH

NEA/P:GSHERMAN

M/CT:RPMYERS

S/S -O:SGOLDSMITH

-----110110Z 126983 /62

O P 102358Z MAY 77 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR ALATHERTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, IZ, LY, YS

SUBJECT: IRAQI, LIBYAN AND SOUTH YEMENI SUPPORT OF
TERRORISM

REF: STATE 105216 (NOTAL)

1. NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST CARRIED ARTICLES
MAY 9 REPORTING THAT STATE DEPARTMENT HAS IDENTIFIED FOUR
COUNTRIES (LIBYA, IRAQ, SOUTH YEMEN AND SOMALIA) AS

ACTIVELY SUPPORTING TERRORIST GROUPS. ARTICLES WERE SOURCED TO A LETTER AND OTHER MATERIALS PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT TO SENATOR JACOB JAVITS.

2. INFORMATION PROVIDED TO SENATOR JAVITS WAS IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION RE "OPERATIONS, ASSISTANCE AND METHODS" THAT THESE AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE PURSUED "IN FURTHERANCE OF TERRORISTS AND TERRORISM." FULL TEXT OF JAVITS REQUEST, IN LETTER TO AMBASSADOR HECK (M/CT) DATED FEBRUARY 23, WAS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DEAR AMBASSADOR HECK: I INTEND TO FOLLOW UP THE SENATE'S PASSAGE IN THE 94TH CONGRESS OF S. RES. 524, WHICH CONDEMNED THE AUGUST 11 TERRORIST ATTACK AT YESILKOY AIRPORT, TURKEY, WITH HEARINGS BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN

RELATIONS COMMITTEE. AS ONE WHO WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH OUR EFFORTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM AND WHO WAS TRAGICALLY AND INTIMATELY AFFECTED BY THE YESILKOY AIRPORT ATTACK, I HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY REPORTS OF ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA TO FACILITATE THAT AND OTHER TERRORIST ATTACKS. IN ADDITION, I AM SURE THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF REPORTS OF ASSISTANCE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF IRAQ, SOUTH YEMEN AND SOMALIA TO TERRORISTS. ACCORDINGLY, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A REPORT, IN WRITING, PREFERABLY UNCLASSIFIED, SETTING FORTH IN DETAIL THE OPERATIONS, ASSISTANCE, AND METHODS THAT LIBYA AND ANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE PURSUED IN FURTHERANCE OF TERRORISTS AND TERRORISM.

IN ADDITION, I AM INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT NEW APPROACHES, IF ANY, THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO TAKE TO COMBAT TERRORISM. I HOPE THAT ANY NEW DEPARTURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN WILL BE FORMULATED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESS WHERE I BELIEVE A MOST COOPERATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE WILL BE FOUND.

I BELIEVE THAT THE INFORMATION I AM HEREIN REQUESTING WILL BE MOST HELPFUL IN LAYING A CONSTRUCTIVE BASIS FOR THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS WHICH I INTEND TO REQUEST.

WITH BEST REGARDS, SINCERELY, JACOB K. JAVITS. END QUOTE.

3. IN REPLY DATED APRIL 27, DEPT RESPONDED TO SENATOR JAVITS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DEAR SENATOR JAVITS: WITH FURTHER REFERENCE TO

YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 23 TO AMBASSADOR HECK AND TO THE
INTERIM REPLY OF MARCH 8, AND CONSEQUENT TO AMBASSADOR
HECK'S DISCUSSION WITH YOUR STAFF, I HAVE ENCLOSED
SUMMARY STATEMENTS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMA-
TION ON ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO TERRORISTS BY VARIOUS GOVERN-
MENTS IN RECENT YEARS. ALSO ENCLOSED IS A SHORT PAPER ON
THE PRESENT STATUS OF OUR THINKING WITH REGARD TO NEW
INITIATIVES AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH ARE
CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

WE FULLY SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT TERRORISM AND VALUE YOUR
SUPPORT OF OUR EFFORTS TO COPE WITH IT. THERE IS,
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UNFORTUNATELY, EVERY INDICATION THAT INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM IS ON THE INCREASE AND WE WILL HAVE TO PREPARE
OURSELVES TO DEAL WITH FURTHER ATTACKS ON AMERICAN
CITIZENS AND INSTALLATIONS ABROAD INCLUDING THOSE OF

AMERICAN COMPANIES. THE INITIATIVES SET FORTH IN THE
ENCLOSED PAPER ARE DESIGNED TO PREPARE US TO HANDLE SUCH
THREATS MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THE FUTURE AND HOPEFULLY TO
DETER AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. THERE MAY BE OTHER INITIATIVES
AND MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. AMBASSADOR HECK
WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF
IF YOU WISH TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AT FURTHER LENGTH.

SINCERELY, DOUGLAS J. BENNET, JR., ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS. END QUOTE.

4. TEXTS OF SUMMARY STATEMENTS ON IRAQ, LIBYA AND PDRY
THAT WERE ATTACHED TO DEPARTMENT'S LETTER TO JAVITS ARE
GIVEN BELOW. (SUMMARY STATEMENT ON SOMALIA WAS TRANS-
MITTED VIA REFTEL.)

5. QUOTE: IRAQ. THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ IS A MAJOR
SUPPORTER OF REJECTIONIST PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS WHICH
REPUDIATE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE ARAB/ISRAEL
DISPUTE. THE REJECTIONIST PALESTINIANS INCLUDE GROUPS
WHICH USE TERRORISM AS A POLICY INSTRUMENT. BAGHDAD LENDS
POLITICAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO ALL REJECTIONIST GROUPS.
TO WHAT DEGREE BAGHDAD PROVIDES FINANCIAL, MILITARY,
LOGISTICAL OR TRAINING SUPPORT IS UNCLEAR, BUT IT APPEARS
THAT A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF SOME SUCH SUPPORT GOES TO
ONE RENEGADE FATAH GROUP AND THE WADI HADDAD WING OF THE
POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP), BOTH
OF WHICH CARRY OUT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.
END QUOTE.

6. QUOTE: LIBYA. ALTHOUGH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMS
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THAT IT IS OPPOSED TO TERRORISTS IT HAS QUALIFIED THIS BY SAYING THAT "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" ARE NOT "TERRORISTS" AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO CARRY ON THEIR STRUGGLES "BY WHATEVER MEANS" THEY DEEM NECESSARY.

THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT, SINCE AT LEAST 1972, HAS ACTIVELY ASSISTED A NUMBER OF TERRORIST GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS. THESE HAVE PRIMARILY BEEN MEMBERS OF THE SEVERAL "REJECTIONIST" Factions OF THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT WHO HAVE BROKEN AWAY FROM MORE MODERATE PALESTINIAN LEADERS ON THE ISSUE OF THE LEGITIMACY OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF CARRYING ON THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL.

IT IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD THAT LIBYA HAS RECEIVED AND GIVEN REFUGE TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS INVOLVED IN A LONG HISTORY OF TERRORIST ACTS, INCLUDING:

-- THE PERPETRATORS OF THE OCTOBER 1972 MASSACRE AT THE MUNICH OLYMPICS;

-- THE HIJACKERS OF THE LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT IN OCTOBER 1972;

-- THE HIJACKERS OF THE JAPANESE AIR LINE BOEING BLOWN UP IN JULY 1973;

-- THE TERRORISTS WHO ATTACKED THE TWA PLANE AT ATHENS AIRPORT IN AUGUST 1973;

-- THE TERRORISTS WHO ATTEMPTED TO SHOOT DOWN THE EL AL PLANE OUTSIDE OF ROME IN SEPTEMBER 1973;

-- THE TERRORISTS WHO COMMANDERED A TRAIN IN CZECHOSLAVAKIA BOUND FOR AUSTRIA IN SEPTEMBER 1973;

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-- THE HIJACKERS OF THE BOAC PLANE OVER DUBAI OF NOVEMBER 1974;

-- THE KIDNAPPERS OF CERTAIN OPEC OIL MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1975. END QUOTE.

7. QUOTE. PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (ADEN). THERE IS SOME PUBLIC EVIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN HAS ON OCCASION ALLOWED ITS TERRITORY TO

BE USED AS A SANCTUARY FOR TERRORISTS. THE ABSENCE OF ANY U.S. REPRESENTATION IN SOUTH YEMEN AND THE GENERAL RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE MOVEMENTS AND CONTACTS OF FOREIGNERS THERE MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE UNITED STATES TO VERIFY THE EXISTENCE AND EXTENT OF PDRY SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM. IN RECENT MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN SOME TENTATIVE MOVEMENTS TOWARD IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PDRY AND CERTAIN OF ITS MODERATE ARAB NEIGHBORS WHICH HAVE CONSISTENTLY REPUDIATED INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PREDICT WITH ANY CERTAINTY, HOWEVER, WHETHER THIS TREND WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON PDRY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM. END QUOTE.

8. AS OF COB MAY 10, NO QUESTIONS RE FOREGOING HAD BEEN RAISED IN DEPARTMENTAL PRESS BRIEFINGS. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT A MAY 10 REUTERS DESPATCH FROM BAGHDAD QUOTES AN IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AS SAYING GOI REJECTS AMERICAN ALLEGATION THAT IT AIDS TERRORISM AND STATING THAT IRAQ'S SUPPORT FOR "STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLE WHO WERE DISPLACED BY THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT WITH U.S. SUPPORT" COULD IN NO WAY BE PORTRAYED AS TERRORISM.

9. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED ON THIS QUESTION IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: QUESTION: WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT LETTER TO SENATOR JAVITS ACCUSING IRAQ, LIBYA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SOMALIA AND SOUTH YEMEN OF SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM?

ANSWER: -- THE LETTER WAS SENT IN ANSWER TO A REQUEST FROM SENATOR JAVITS ON FEBRUARY 23 REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT REPORTS THAT THOSE FOUR COUNTRIES ARE SUPPORTING AND ASSISTING TERRORIST ATTACKS.

-- THE STATE DEPARTMENT LETTER WAS A STRAIGHTFORWARD STATEMENT OF FACT.

-- THE STATE DEPARTMENT LETTER WAS A REPETITION OF THE LONG-STANDING AND WELL-KNOWN POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE106231
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770164-1297
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 105216 (NOTAL)
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2345342
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI, LIBYAN AND SOUTH YEMENI SUPPORT OF TERRORISM
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, IZ, LY, YS
To: SANA TRIPOLI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9a86088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009